MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Tripoli
Beirut
Sidon
Tyre
Nabatiye
PROVINCES
North Lebanon
Mount Lebanon
South Lebanon
Bekaa
ISRAEL

have retained close contact with their homeland, a factor which has had a profound influence on the soil and the economic development of the country.

Unlike the neighboring Arab states, Lebanon is a compact territory. The density of population in its four administrative provinces, exclusive of Beirut district, averaged over 300 per square mile in 1948. It was 464 per square mile in Mount Lebanon, 356 in North Lebanon, and 291 in South Lebanon, but declined to 101 in the potentially fertile district of the Bekaa. About 60 per cent of the inhabitants live under rural conditions in some 2,000 large or small villages. Urbanization has increased progressively within recent years, however, and almost one half of the population is now concentrated within city limits of Beirut. The city, which is not only the capital and the industrial metropolis of Lebanon but the principal port of the Levant states, had a population of 100,000 to 400,000 in 1960. Tripoli, the second largest city and the terminus of the pipeline from the oil fields in northern Iraq to the Mediterranean, had a population of roughly 70,000. Numerous towns in the southern and the central portions of the Lebanon range are popular resorts, with an annual influx of summer residents.

The fact that Beirut has become one of the leading cultural and educational centers of the Near East has stimulated the spread of education in the rest of the country. The literacy rate is consistently higher among the men than among the women; it probably averages from 75 to 90 per cent in Beirut and the neighboring districts of Mount Lebanon as from 40 to 60 per cent in the other provinces. The expansion of education has been influenced by the activity of French, American and other foreign groups, but the division between the different systems has hindered the development of a unified national program. Theoretically, primary education is compulsory, although the facilities are inadequate, especially in the rural areas of the south.